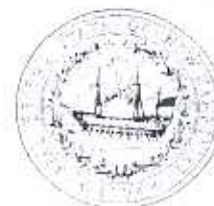




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



February 22, 2007

The Honorable Naida L. Kaen, Chairman
House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 304
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 694 relative to establishing a commission to study the feasibility of tidal power generation in Dover

Dear Chairman Kaen and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) is pleased to offer testimony on House Bill 694, which establishes a commission to study the feasibility of tidal power generation in Dover. DES supports the goal of the bill to promote and increase the use of tidal power generation, if feasible, in the state. In fact, DES is hosting a Tidal Energy Workshop tomorrow at its Pease Tradeport office.

Tidal power is renewable and it reduces emissions of criteria air pollutants (ozone precursors, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide) as well as green house gas emissions that would otherwise be emitted from power plants that combust fossil fuels. Increased use of tidal power also supports Governor Lynch's 25 X 25 initiative that seeks to have 25% of the energy used in New Hampshire come from renewable energy sources by 2025.

As with other types of renewable energy, a major consideration is appropriate siting. DES supports this feasibility study to determine that the site selected for this specific project is indeed appropriate. DES has the following three suggestions to amend the text of the bill.

- 1) Please add the phrase "or other appropriate coastal public infrastructure" to the Little Bay and General Sullivan bridges as potential sites for tidal energy facilities, assuming that other sites might be suggested in the proposed commission's work.
- 2) Under duties, section I (c) please change to "The environmental and wildlife impacts."
- 3) Under duties, please add under section I, "Impacts to design and performance of the bridges or other public infrastructure associated with potential tidal energy sites."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Should you have further questions or need additional information please feel free to contact Ted Diers, Coastal Program Manager (271-7940, tdiers@des.state.nh.us), or me at 271-2958,

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Representative Thomas R. Fargo
Representative Judith T. Spang
Representative Roland P. Hofemann
Representative Sarah A. Hutz